

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for the production of paper, board and cardboard ~~by~~ comprising:

adding ionic, water-insoluble, uncrosslinked, organic microparticles and at least one retention aid to a paper stock; and

draining the paper stock over a wire,

wherein the organic microparticles used are water-insoluble, uncrosslinked, organic polymers having an average particle size of less than 500 nm and a content of polymerized ionic monomers of less than 1% by weight of water-insoluble, uncrosslinked, organic polymers having an average particle size of less than 500 nm and a content of polymerized ionic monomers of not more than 10% by weight, which are obtainable by polymerizing the monomers in the presence of silica, waterglass, bentonite and/or mixtures thereof.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein the average particle size of the water-insoluble, uncrosslinked, organic polymers is from 10 to 100 nm; and the content of polymerized ionic monomers is from 0.1 to 0.95% by weight.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the average particle size of the water-insoluble, uncrosslinked, organic polymers is from 10 to 80 nm; and the content of polymerized ionic monomers is from 0.2 to 0.7% by weight.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the average particle size of the water-insoluble, uncrosslinked, organic polymers is from 15 to 50 nm.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the water-insoluble, uncrosslinked, organic polymers comprise at least one anionic monomer incorporated in the form of polymerized units.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the water-insoluble, uncrosslinked, organic polymers comprise at least one cationic monomer incorporated in the form of polymerized units.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein water-insoluble, uncrosslinked, organic polymers which are obtainable by free radical aqueous emulsion polymerization of a monomer mixture comprising:

- (a) from 30 to 55 parts by weight of at least one monomer whose homopolymer has a glass transition temperature T_g of $<20^{\circ}\text{C}$ [[,]];
- (b) from 45 to 70 parts by weight of at least one monomer whose homopolymer has a glass transition temperature T_g of $>50^{\circ}\text{C}$; and
- (c) from 0.01 to less than 1 part by weight of a monomer having ionic groups, the sum of the parts by weight of (a) and (b) always being 100, are used.

Claim 8 (Original): The process according to claim 7, wherein the monomer (a) is selected from at least one C_1 - to C_{10} -alkyl acrylate, C_5 - to C_{10} -alkyl methacrylate, C_5 - to C_{10} -cycloalkyl (meth)acrylate, C_1 - to C_{10} -dialkyl maleate and/or C_1 - to C_{10} -dialkyl fumarate[[,]]; and the monomer (b) is selected from at least one vinylaromatic monomer and/or one α,β -unsaturated carbonitrile or carbodinitrile.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 7 ~~or 8~~, wherein the monomer (c) is selected from α,β -unsaturated C₃- to C₆-carboxylic acids, α,β -unsaturated C₄- to C₈-dicarboxylic acids, anhydrides thereof, monoethylenically unsaturated alkanesulfonic acids, monoethylenically unsaturated phosphonic acids and/or monoethylenically unsaturated arylsulfonic acids.

Claim 10 (Original): The process according to claim 9, wherein the monomer (c) is used in the polymerization in the form partly or completely neutralized with alkali metal, alkaline earth metal and/or ammonium bases.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of claims 7 to 10~~ claim 7, wherein the water-insoluble, uncrosslinked, organic polymers are composed of:

from 35 to 50 parts by weight of monomer units (a) ~~[[.]]~~;
from 50 to 65 parts by weight of monomer units (b); and
from 0.01 to 0.95 part by weight of monomer units (c),
the sum of the monomer units (a) and (b) always being 100.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of claims 7 to 11~~ claim 7, wherein the water-insoluble, uncrosslinked, organic polymers are obtainable by polymerizing the monomers in the presence of silica, waterglass, bentonite and/or mixtures thereof.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1, wherein at least one fixing agent, strength agent for paper and/or an engine size are also added to the paper stock.

Claim 14 (Original): The process according to claim 13, wherein the fixing agent used is a polymer comprising vinylamine units, polydiallyldimethylammonium chloride, polyethylenimine, polyalkylenepolyamine and/or dicyandiamide polymer.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1, wherein water-insoluble, uncrosslinked, organic polymers having an average particle size of less than 500 nm and a content of polymerized ionic monomers of less than 1% by weight are metered together with at least one cationic, anionic, amphoteric or neutral synthetic organic polymer and/or cationic starch as a retention aid to the paper stock before the final shear stage upstream of the headbox.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1, wherein water-insoluble, uncrosslinked, organic polymers having an average particle size of less than 500 nm and a content of polymerized ionic monomers of less than 1% by weight are metered together with at least one retention aid and one finely divided inorganic component to the paper stock after the final shear stage upstream of the headbox~~[[,]]~~; or wherein the retention aid is metered before the final shear stage upstream of the headbox and water-insoluble, uncrosslinked, organic polymers having an average particle size of less than 500 nm and a content of polymerized ionic monomers of less than 1% by weight are metered alone or together with the finely divided inorganic component after the final shear stage upstream of the headbox.